

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An image recording method, comprising:

a pretreatment step of causing a pretreatment liquid containing dipropylene glycol monopropyl ether and a cationic substance to adhere on a medium; and
a recording step of forming, after the pretreatment step, an image on the medium by using an aqueous pigment ink containing a pigment and resin microparticles having a negative surface charge.

2. (Original) An image recording method, comprising:

a pretreatment step of causing a pretreatment liquid containing dipropylene glycol monopropyl ether and a cationic substance to adhere on a medium; and
a black recording step of forming, after the pretreatment step, an image on the medium by using a black aqueous pigment ink containing a black pigment and resin microparticles having a negative surface charge; and

a color recording step of forming, after a specific amount of time has elapsed since the execution of the black recording step, an image on the medium by using a colored aqueous pigment ink containing a pigment other than the black pigment and resin microparticles having a negative surface charge.

3. (Currently Amended) The image recording method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the resin microparticles are a resin emulsion.

4. (Currently Amended) The image recording method according to ~~any of~~ ~~Claims 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the average size of the resin microparticles is smaller than the average particle size of the pigment.

5. (Currently Amended) The image recording method according to ~~any of~~ ~~Claims 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the medium is a cloth.

6. (Currently Amended) The image recording method according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~, wherein pretreatment liquid contains dipropylene glycol monopropyl ether in an amount of 5 to 10 wt% and the cationic substance in an amount of 0.01 to 10 wt%.

7. (Currently Amended) The image recording method according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the aqueous pigment ink contains, in amount of 0.5 to 15 wt%, the pigment which has an average of volume particle size of 10 to 100 nm.

8. (New) The image recording method according to Claim 2, wherein the resin microparticles are a resin emulsion.

9. (New) The image recording method according to Claim 2, wherein the average size of the resin microparticles is smaller than the average particle size of the pigment.

10. (New) The image recording method according to Claim 2, wherein the medium is a cloth.

11. (New) The image recording method according to Claim 2, wherein pretreatment liquid contains dipropylene glycol monopropyl ether in an amount of 5 to 10 wt% and the cationic substance in an amount of 0.01 to 10 wt%.

12. (New) The image recording method according to Claim 2, wherein the aqueous pigment ink contains, in amount of 0.5 to 15 wt%, the pigment which has an average of volume particle size of 10 to 100 nm.